



# Environmental Dashboard



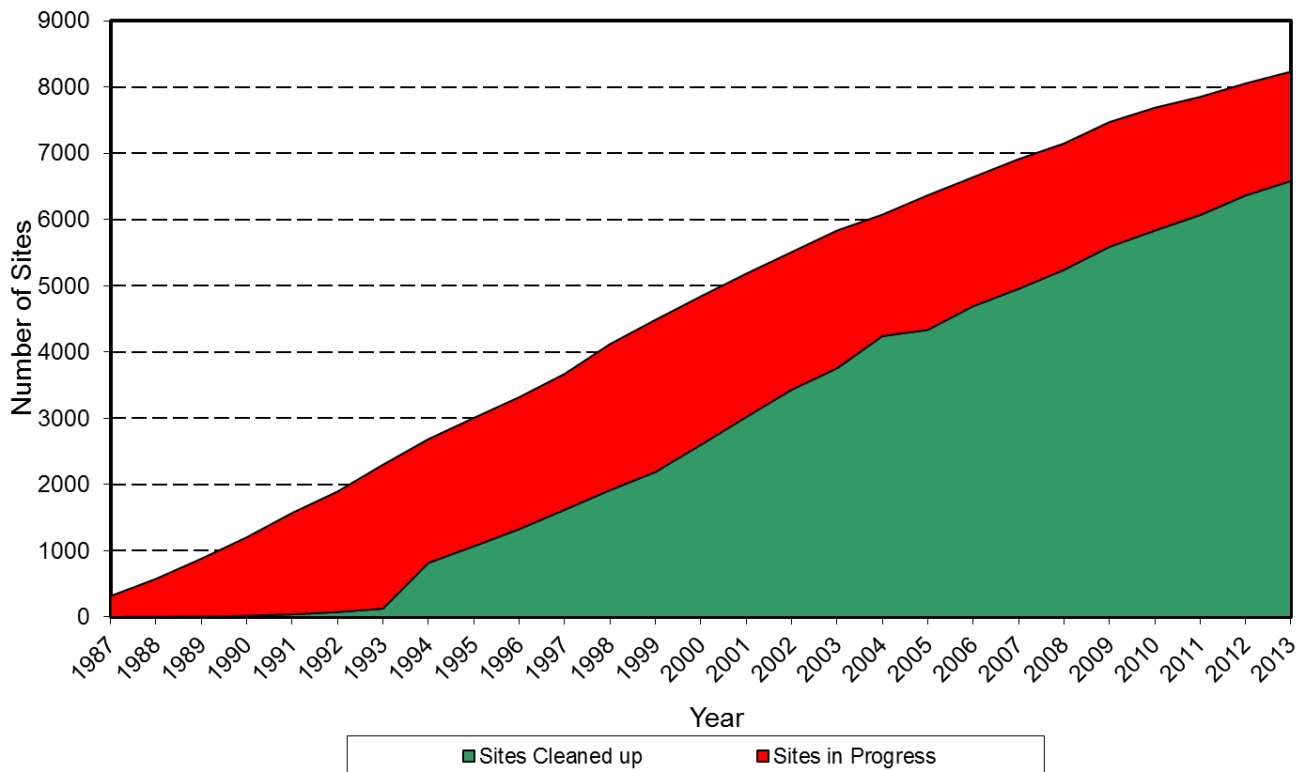
## Trends in New Hampshire's Environment Contaminated Property: Sites Cleaned Up

A "contaminated property" is one that has been polluted by one or more hazardous substances, such as toxic chemicals, oil, or gasoline. These sites may have contaminated buildings, soil, or groundwater. Unless cleaned up, they pose a potential risk to public health and the environment. Such sites may also negatively impact neighboring property values and the local economy.

### Current Condition

As of 2013, of the 8,232 contaminated properties discovered since the 1980s, 80% have been cleaned up, leaving 1,649 sites, or 20%, still in the process of being cleaned up.

### Progress of Contaminated Sites Cleanup From 1987 to Present



SOURCE: DES Waste Management Division

### **Explanation of Indicator and Trend**

The number of contaminated sites in the process of being cleaned up over the past years has remained fairly constant with a slight decreasing trend. This gain in completed cleanups outpacing newly discovered sites was seen in 2013, with 218 sites achieving cleanup and 178 newly discovered sites being added to the list. Although this trend is a positive sign in the cleanup program, newly emerging contaminants of concern and more protective contaminant level limits based on the latest public health advisories could increase the number of sites needing cleanup.

The most important long-term goal in cleaning up contaminated sites is the restoration and protection of groundwater, which is used for drinking water by approximately 60% of the state's population. It is vitally important that contamination of groundwater be prevented as the cleanup of contaminated groundwater can easily take decades and be costly.

### **How Does DES Address This?**

New contaminated sites are often discovered through groundwater and water supply monitoring. They are also discovered during due diligence investigations of properties undergoing purchase and sales transactions. The DES contaminated sites programs have an excellent record of promptly addressing public health risks at residential and commercial properties, working cooperatively with federal, state and local officials, and the affected neighborhoods. This collaborative effort and public outreach not only effectively addresses property owner's and public health risks, but also promotes the redevelopment and revitalization of local communities and the economy. DES, which has well established, integrated and risk-based cleanup programs, works closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to focus federal cleanup programs on the sites that have the greatest need while continuing to encourage private parties to perform voluntary cleanups whenever possible.

### **For More Information, Including What You Can Do to Help**

DES Hazardous Waste Remediation Bureau

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwrb/index.htm>

DES Petroleum Remediation Program

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/orcb/prs/prp/index.htm>

DES Brownfields Program

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwrb/sss/brownfields/index.htm>

DES Superfund Program

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwrb/fss/superfund/index.htm>

Hazardous Materials in Your Home (DES Brochure)

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/p2au/pps/hhwp/documents/home.pdf>

What Shape Is Your Heating Tank In? (DES Brochure)

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wmd/documents/opuf-brochure.pdf>

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